

The Environmental Protection Agency is cut by 23 percent in the President's budget, which equates to a severe 54 percent cut to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). The impact to the state would be a loss \$11.1 million in the 2019 federal fiscal year. These grants provide continuing environmental program funding for all areas of work at the MPCA. Programs proposed for elimination at EPA include the Nonpoint Source Implementation Program which targets local watershed studies and implementation projects to reduce or eliminate sources of water quality pollution from diffuse sources; Pollution Prevention Program which targets source reductions; and Underground Storage Tank (UST) Program that targets permitting and compliance activities for regulated USTs.

Included in the cuts to the EPA, the President's budget reduces the Brownfield programs by 33 percent, limiting redevelopment and restoration of land to commercial uses.

The president's budget also cuts the EPA's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative by 90 percent. The program supports restoring and protecting watersheds in eight states surrounding the Great Lakes that provide drinking water for over 40 million Americans and drives a \$62 billion annual economy of fishing, boating and recreational activities. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency receive Restoration Initiative funding for the following activities:

Annual grants for prevention and management of Aquatic Invasive Species in the Great Lakes Basin (\$800,000).

Habitat restoration and remedial action plan implementation activities in the St. Louis River Area of Concern Project (\$4.5 million grant), and

Lake management activities to protect water quality in Lake Superior Basin through efforts to reduce impairments and toxic chemicals (\$896,000).

In addition, the Coastal Zone Management program through National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is cut by 20 percent. The program funds \$972,000 annually for protecting streams and rivers in the Great Lakes area.

Agriculture: Agriculture is a cornerstone of Minnesota's economy, providing more than 400,000 jobs and \$121 billion in economic activity. The President's FY2019 budget proposes a 16 percent reduction in USDA discretionary spending and showcases a lack of understanding about what is important to rural America and the agriculture economy. The budget seeks to weaken the safety net of crop insurance during a time of low commodity prices putting our rural economies at risk. Crop insurance provides farmers with the security they need to increase yields, improve efficiencies, and stay competitive in world markets. The President's budget calls for steep cuts to premium subsidies and excludes producers with an Adjusted Gross Income of more than \$500,000.

These budget and policy changes will harm Minnesota's agricultural economy. We are hopeful that the next Farm Bill will focus on fostering a robust farm and rural economy, maintaining a strong nutrition title, and prioritizing conservation and water quality programs.

On behalf of Governor Dayton, the executive branch of the State of Minnesota, and the millions of Minnesotans served by the state, please voice your opposition to these cuts in the President's budget, as well as any other draconian cuts to programs that Minnesotans rely on. Moving forward, we are available to work with you and others to ensure that the 2019 federal budget is a fair approach for the services upon which Minnesotans depend. Thank you for the opportunity to provide these remarks.

FINDLAY NAMED TOP MICROPOLITAN COMMUNITY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Findlay, Ohio for being named the 2018 Top Micropolitan Community in the United States. Awarded by Site Selection magazine, Findlay has now received this recognition as the top city for business for four straight years.

To qualify, a micropolitan city must have a population ranging from 10,000 to 50,000. Site Selection judged 575 of these cities on business growth and sustainable success. In total, Findlay listed 21 projects that met Site Selection's criteria leading to its fourth straight first-place finish.

It is a team effort top to bottom that has led the way to Findlay's consistent success. I commend Mayor Lydia Mihalik, the Findlay-Hancock County Economic Development office, the Hancock County Commissioners, and the entire community for everything they've done to top the charts once again.

Mr. Speaker, the 'Findlay Formula' has an established track record that meant to cultivate growth and prosperity for the community. With their business-friendly environment, I have no doubt that Findlay will be at the top again next year.

Congratulations once again to Findlay for being named the country's No. 1 Micropolitan Community.

CENTENNIAL OF UPPER ARLINGTON, OHIO

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of Ohio's 15th Congressional District to recognize the centennial of Upper Arlington, Ohio. Since King and Ben Thompson formed the Upper Arlington Company and purchased the original 840 acres, Upper Arlington has been a hub of activity in Central Ohio, reminding us of much of our nation's history and entrepreneurial spirit.

In 1913, the Thompson brothers saw the value of the Country Club District—as it was originally named—and believed it to be the ideal location for a residential community. The brothers were not alone in their assessment, and their efforts were temporarily halted in 1916 when the National Guard employed the area as a training camp, Camp Willis. Despite this, they persisted, and the village was incorporated in March of 1918.

Following its incorporation and based on its strategic location east of Columbus, the area grew rapidly in its earliest years. In the 1920s, Upper Arlington reaffirmed its commitment to the entrepreneurial spirit, and the Mallway business district was developed. Professional office spaces and retail businesses sprung up along Upper Arlington Avenue.

Today, Upper Arlington remains a wonderful place to work, live, and raise a family. I am grateful for the leadership of Mayor Kip Greenhill, the Members of the City Council,

and all of the neighbors and friends who have maintained Upper Arlington's strong commitment to community.

I am honored to represent this city, where the core values of our nation are exemplified. This is a place with a Cherished Past and a Golden Future, and I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the centennial of Upper Arlington, Ohio.

IN HONOR OF SPRING GARDEN WINNING AHSAA CLASS 1A HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TITLE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Spring Garden High School Varsity Girls for winning the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA) Class 1A basketball state title.

The Panthers beat the Phillips Bears 52–38 on March 1, 2018 at the Legacy Arena at the BJCC in Birmingham, Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the students and faculty of Spring Garden High School, the coaches, the players and all the Panthers fans on this exciting achievement! Go Panthers.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE SINKING OF THE USS "HOUSTON"

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring your attention to a memorial ceremony for the men who served aboard the USS *Houston* (CA-30) held this month in Sam Houston Park in my hometown of Houston. Descendants of the sailors and Marines of the "Flagship" of the U.S. Asiatic Fleet that was sunk by Imperial Japanese Naval forces on March 1, 1942 which honored their bravery and determination.

Seventy-six years ago, the American heavy cruiser USS *Houston* (CA-30) and Australian light cruiser HMAS *Perth*, outnumbered and outgunned by an Imperial Japanese Navy Battle Fleet, fought to the last in the Sunda Strait between Sumatra and Java. Both went down with their captains aboard and their guns still firing. Nearly 1,000 Allied servicemen perished. It marked the end of the U.S. Asiatic Fleet and the naval forces of the American-British-Dutch-Australian (ABDA) Command.

As the crews abandoned the sinking ships, Japanese sailors machine-gunned the decks and the men in the oil-soaked sea. Only 368 sailors and Marines, including four Chinese stewards and mess attendants from the *Houston*, made it to shore where they were taken as POWs of Japan. Some were held in a POW camp on Java, eight officers were sent to Japan to corporate POW camps, and others to the infamous Changi Prison in Singapore. Most, 220 of the survivors were shipped to Burma to be slave laborers constructing the Thai-Burma Death Railway.